

CASEY HOPES: My name is Casey Hopes. I am a Carbon County Commissioner. My first comment would be that I would respectfully request that the moratorium on coal leasing be lifted, and if there is a need for further evaluation on coal leasing, that it be done without harming the communities that they impact. With every increase in lease cost, we will increase the cost of power in America. Having worked for a company as a subcontractor for Skyline Dugout and Sufco mines, I can tell you there are very few companies that are greater stewards of the environment. I was personally paid a fair wage to create better grazing habitat, wildlife habitat. We were paid to do a lot of those environmental projects, and some of those projects weren't required under their leasing agreements. They did them voluntarily as good stewards of the land. I just want to point out we had a solar company come to Carbon County, and I'm for all types of energy so long as they can compete on a fair basis. The solar company came in and they asked us if they could build a solar plant in our county, and we said, "Okay, tell us about it." \$30 million they are going to receive as a subsidy from the federal government on a \$130 million project, 30 million of it will be paid by the federal government. They were asking for 70 percent of a tax rebate by the county so that they could compete with coal. Without those subsidies they can't compete on a fair market. That is all I ask is that when we have these renewable energies is we don't harm the ones that are already working to compete with those are already working. Along with that, I echo the words of John Byers. Our communities have received great benefits through the Community Impact Board and through our own -- we have a special service district that we receive on average in the last 20 years about \$5 million that we put in to infrastructure. That infrastructure is roads, buildings, department programs so that, when the East comes back to visit the western states and recreate in our towns and our communities, we can provide the search and rescue, the housing, the good streets so that they can enjoy their time while they are here. Thanks.